Amendments in Copy Right Laws

7472. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the 'Times of India' dated 30th April, 1995 that USA has asked India to amend copy right laws;

(b) what are the changes that have been made in copy right laws under foreign pressure;

(c) what more changes are being pressed; and

(d) whether Government would consider consulting other countries in the same situation and take concerted action to protect public interest?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) According to the report in the 'Times of India' dated April 30, 1995, U.S.A. has urged Japan, South Korea and India to improve their record on copyright protection.

(b) and (c) No change has either been made or is proposed to be made in the Copyright Law under foreign pressure. The Copyright Act has recently been amended vide Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1994 for improving the protection of copyright in the country necessitated due to technological developments and demands of the society. The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1994 was passed by the Parliament.

(d) Does not arise.

Institutions imparting distance Education

7473. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote distance education;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked by Government to make distance education more useful;

(c) the number of the institutions to which the amount has been provided by Government during the last two years and with details thereof; and

(d) the names of the institutions in Uttar Pradesh and other States which impart distance education?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An allocation of Rs. 60.00 crores has been made for the establishment of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) during the 8th Plan. This includes Rs. 5.00 crores for development support to State Open Universities. An amount of Rs. 11.00 crores has been allocated to National Open School during 8th Plan.

(c) The details of grant given to the Distance Education Institutions during the last two years are as under:

	1993-94	1994-95
IGNOU	Rs. 10.00 crores	Rs. 9.95 crores, Also, an amount of Rs. 58.20 crores has been released for meeting counterpart rupee payment for picking up Japanese Grant Assistance from JICA
National Open School	Rs. 1.45 crores	Rs. 2.51 crores

On the recommendation of Distance Education Council of IGNOU, which has the responsibility of coordination and maintenance of standards in Open Learn-